489 Georgian Military Road connecting Dzaudzhikau
[491] with Tbilisi. Aviation, on the other hand, is very well developed.

The transportation systems of the various sub-areas are as follows:

489 Azerbaijan SSR: Transportation based
496 on railroads. The chief rail junction is Baku, the terminal of the Baku-Rostov, Baku-Tbilisi, and Baku-Dzhul'fa-Tbilisi lines. The main lines are partially electrified as are the railroads on the Apsheron Peninsula. The main
[304] port is Baku (petroleum-loading). The Kura River is navigable as far as Yevlakh. The air-
[508] fields are concentrated around Baku and Kirovabad. The sub-units are well served by railroads. Stepanakert, the capital of the High-Karabakh AO, is the terminal of a trunk line coming from Yevlakh. Dzhul'fa, in the Nakhichevan' ASSR, is an important junction on the Baku-Tbilisi-Tabriz (Persia) lines.

Armenian SSR: Railroads are the chief means of transportation. Important junctions are Zangibazar (on the Leninakan, Zanga, and Dzhul'fa lines), and Leninakan on the Tbilisi,
[491] Dzhul'fa, Artik, and Kars (Turkey) lines. The highways along the slopes of the Lesser Cauca-
[509] sus are relatively good. Yerevan is the aviation center of the republic.

Georgian SSR: Transportation mostly based on railroads. The main lines are the Baku-Tbilisi-Batumi, and the Tbilisi-Sukhumi-Tuapse lines, with Tbilisi, Khashuri, and Samtredia as the chief junctions. The Georgian railroad system has at the same time a whole

series of trunk lines, the most important of which are the Mirzaani, Telavi, Stalinir, Bakuriani, Vale, Sachkere, Tkibuli, Tskhaltubo, Poti, and Zugdidi lines. The main port of the republic is Poti. The military roads have primarily historical value. Aviation is centered around Tbilisi. The capitals of the sub-units (Stalinir, Batumi, Sukhumi) have railroad connections, and Batumi is at the same time one of the principal petroleum loading ports of the USSR.

Astrakhan' Oblast: Transportation is based on waterways (the Volga and the Caspian Sea), and more recently on railroads. The principal railroad line is the Saratov-Astrakhan'-Kizlyar line, the Astrakhan'-Kizlyar section of which was recently built. Chief port of the area is Astrakhan' connected by a 125-mile long channel through the shallow waters of the Caspian Sea with Astrakhan' Port. Astrakhan' is above all an oil port; in addition to this it is an important aviation center.

Groznyy Oblast: Transportation based on railroads. The oblast is well served by the two Baku-Rostov main lines (along the Sundzha, and the Terek Rivers), and by the new Kizlyar-Astrakhan' line. The chief junction is Gudermes.

Dagestan ASSR: On the Baku-Rostov line. The center of the railroad system is Makhachkala, the terminal of several spurs. Makhachkala is an important grain, cotton and petroleum port as well, trading mostly with Russian Central Asia, and with Persia. There are also several airfields around the city.